

1920.

ISLE OF ELY COUNTY COUNCIL.

Annual Report

on the

PUBLIC HEALTH

of the

Isle of Ely,

For the Year 1920,

by

PERCY MOXEY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

County Medical Officer of Health.

*Prepared by direction of the County Council for the Administrative
County of the Isle of Ely.*

LITTLEPORT, ISLE OF ELY :

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1921.

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SANITARY AUTHORITIES IN THE ISLE OF ELY.

THE ISLE OF ELY COUNTY COUNCIL

Acting through its Executive :

The County Public Health and Housing Committee.

(Quorum : Five.)

BIDWELL, C.	LAXON, M.
BREWIN, G.	LUDDINGTON, J. L.
BUTCHER, G. T.	McNIECE, H. H. H. (Rev).
CLARKE, Sir W. H. (Chairman)	NEWMAN, A. E. T. (Rev).
CLAYTON, C.	PAPWORTH, E.
COLLINGWOOD, J.	SHEPPERSON, E. W.
CUTLACK, W.	SMITH, J. E. J.
DENNIS, J. H.	SMITH, R. T.
EDWARDS, S. E.	VYE, S. D.
HILL, M.	WADDELOW, JOHN J., F.R.C.S.
JOHNSON, G.	WRIGHT, A. E.

County Medical Officer of Health.

PERCY MONEY, M.B., Ch. B., D.P.H., County Hall,
March, Cambs.

Clinical Tuberculosis Officer.

J. PERRY WALKER, M.B., Ch. B.,
County Hall, March.

LOCAL SANITARY AUTHORITIES.

Urban Districts and Boroughs.	Clerks.	District Medical Officers of Health.
1. Ely	A. K. Campbell, Esq.	F. H. Beckett, M.B.
2. Chatteris	W. F. Moore, Esq. ..	R. E. Nix, B.A., M.B., B.C.
3. March	C. Greenwood, Esq.	F. A. Evison, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
4. Whittlesey	B. Weldon, Esq. ..	C. H. Harding, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
5. Wisbech	F. W. Coulam, Esq.	Harry Groom, B.A., M.D.
Rural Districts.	Clerks.	District Medical Officers of Health.
1. Ely	F. W. Green, Esq. ..	C. W. Howe, M.B., D.P.H.
2. North Witchford	H. P. Sharman, Esq.	Cecil E. Stephens, M.D.
3. Thorney	A. F. Whittome, Esq.	H. Clapham, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
4. Whittlesey	J. W. Bowker, Esq...	John J. Waddelow, F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.S.
5. Wisbech	R. W. Faireloth, Esq.	C. H. Gunson, M.B., Ch. B.
Port of Wisbech ..	F. W. Coulam, Esq.	G. F. Collins, M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

CERTIFYING SURGEONS IN THE ISLE OF ELY.

The following are the names of the Certifying Factory Surgeons in the Isle of Ely:—

Chatteris Urban Districts, and part of North Witchford Rural District, viz., the civil parishes of Benwick, Doddington, and Welches Dam	}	R. E. Nix, B.A., M.B., Market Hill, Chatteris.
Ely Urban District, and part of Ely Rural District, viz., the civil parishes of Coveney, Downham, Thetford, and Witchford ..	}	F. H. Beckett, M.B., B.C., St. Audrey's, Ely.
March Urban District and part of NorthWitch- ford Rural District, viz., the civil parishes of Manea and Wimblington	}	F. A. Evison, M.R.C.S., Broad St., March.
Whittlesey Urban District	}	John J. Waddelow, F.R.C.S
Whittlesey Rural District	}	Whittlesey.
Thorney Rural District	}	
Wisbech Municipal Borough	}	W. Groom, M.D., 32, Old Market, Wisbech,
Wisbech Rural District	}	Cambs.
Part of Ely Rural District, viz., the civil parishes of Grunty Fen, Haddenham, Mepal and Witcham, Stretham, Sutton, Went- worth, and Wilburton	}	C. W. Howe, M.B., Haddenham, Isle of Ely.
Part of Ely Rural District, viz., the civil parishes of Littleport and Redmere ..	}	F. W. Mawby, L.S.A., Mow Fen Hall, Littleport, Ely.

DUTIES OF COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

“The duties of a Medical Officer of Health of a County shall be such as may be prescribed by General Order of the Local Government Board and such other duties as may be assigned to him by the County Council.”—Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, Part III. s. 68 (2).

The Board on July 29, 1910, issued the County Medical Officers of Health (Duties) Order, 1910, prescribing the following duties :—

- (1) The Medical Officer of Health of the County shall inform himself as far as practicable respecting all influences affecting or threatening to affect injuriously the public health in the County. For this purpose he shall visit the several County districts in the County as occasion may require, giving to the Medical Officer of Health of each County district prior notice of his visit, so far as this may be practicable.
- (2) The Medical Officer of Health of the County shall from time to time inquire into and report upon the hospital accommodation available for the isolation of cases occurring in the County—
 - (a) of small-pox, and
 - (b) of other infectious diseases,
 and upon any need for the provision of further hospital accommodation.
- (3) The Medical Officer of Health of the County shall communicate to the Medical Officer of Health of a County district within the County any information which he may possess as to any danger to health threatening that district.
- (4) The Medical Officer of Health of the County shall consult with the Medical Officers of Health of County districts within the County whenever the circumstances may render this desirable.
- (5) If the annual or special reports of the Medical Officer of Health of a County district in the County shall not contain adequate information in regard to
 - (a) the vital statistics of the district,
 - (b) the sanitary circumstances and administration of the district, and
 - (c) the action taken in the district for putting in force the provisions of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890 to 1909,

the Medical Officer of Health of the County shall obtain from the Medical Officer of Health of the County district such further information on those matters as the circumstances may demand.

- (6) The Medical Officer of Health of the County shall, when directed by Us, or by the County Council, or as occasion may require, make a Special Report to the County Council on any matter appertaining to his duties under this Order.
- (7) The Medical Officer of Health of the County shall as soon as practicable after the 31st day of December in each year make an Annual Report to the County Council up to the end of December on the sanitary circumstances, the sanitary administration and the vital statistics of the County.

In addition to any other matters upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report, his Annual Report shall contain the following sections :

- (a) A digest of all annual and special reports made by the Medical Officers of Health of all County districts within the County ;
 - (b) a section as to the isolation hospital accommodation available for each County district and as to the steps which should be taken to remedy any deficiencies which may exist ;
 - (c) a section on the administration of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890 to 1909, within the County ;
 - (d) a section on the water supply of the several County districts within the County ;
 - (e) a section on the pollution of streams within the County and as to the steps for the prevention of pollution taken : —
 - (i) by the local authorities, and
 - (ii) by the County Council ;
 - (f) a section on the administration within the County of the Midwives Act, 1902 ; and
 - (g) a section on the administration of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1875 to 1907, within that part of the County in which the County Council have jurisdiction for the purposes of those Acts.
- .
- (8) The Medical Officer of Health of the County shall send to Us two copies of his Annual Report and two copies of any Special Report ; he shall also send one copy of his Annual Report to the Council of every County district in the County, and shall send three copies of any Special Report to the Council of every such County district affected by the Special Report.

The County Medical Officer is not responsible for the administration of Public Health Law.

It is his duty to collect and to report such statistics or information relating to the health of the County as may in his opinion improve the sanitary condition of the community.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Isle of Ely County Council.*

GENTLEMEN,—

It is with great pleasure that I am able to submit to you the Annual Report on the Public Health of the County for the year ending 31st December, 1920.

This Report covers my first year's work under your authority, and a certain amount of useful work has been accomplished. There are, however, several directions in which action is urgently necessary. I refer mainly to the extension of the water supply, and to the provision of suitable methods of sewage disposal in the larger towns.

One realises that all these measures mean expenditure and that economy is at present the rule, but it should not be forgotten that expenditure on the improvement of the Public Health services may in the long run prove the greatest economy.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

PERCY MOXEY.

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH OF THE COUNTY.

AREA.

The Administrative County covers an area of 238,073 acres.

POPULATION.

The estimated population for 1920 is given by the Registrar General as 71,091.

Owing to the fact that, as regards the distribution of population, we have almost returned to pre-war conditions, the distinction between "Birth Rate" population and "Death Rate" population has been discontinued.

BIRTH RATE.

The number of births registered in the County in 1920 was 1,796, as compared with 1,252 in 1919. 926 males and 870 females were born. There were 136 births of illegitimate children.

The Birth Rate for 1920 is 22·7 as compared with that of 25·4 for England and Wales.

DEATH RATE.

There were 871 deaths in the Isle during 1920. Of these 452 were males and 419 were females. The Death Rate for the year is therefore 12·02 as compared with a rate of 13·6 for 1919, and with that of 12·4 for England and Wales for 1920.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

124 infants under one year of age died; 16 of these were illegitimate, and the Infantile Mortality Rate is 69·04 as compared with that of 80 for the whole country. If one compares the Infant Mortality Rates of the legitimate and illegitimate children, the difference is very marked.

In the Isle the rate for the former is 60·1, and that for the latter 117·6, nearly double.

The causes of death were:—

Congenital Debility ...	...	...	55
Pneumonia ...	...	...	15
Diarrhœa ...	...	...	13
Bronchitis ...	...	...	8
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	8
Other causes ...	...	...	25
			<hr/>
			124

WATER SUPPLY.

The larger centres of population are well supplied with a plentiful and pure supply of water obtained from springs at Marham and Isleham.

But there are certain districts, notably Benwick, Littleport, Downham, Haddenham, Stretham, and Sutton, where the population depends on rain water, or if this fails, on dyke or river water, which is always sewage contaminated.

The well water in the Isle is also always polluted.

Representations were recently made to several District Councils urging them to pay attention to this matter. One Council sent back the facetious reply "that this letter has evidently been sent to us by mistake." One can only conclude that the Councillors did not drink water, and were therefore not interested.

It is quite a question for the Ministry of Health as to whether the provision of such an essential service as "water supply" should be decided by Rural District Councils.

The time is probably not far distant when water supply and sewage disposal will be dealt with by the County Councils, and this will result in the provision of far better services than exist at present.

I understand that in the case of Benwick there would be some difficulty in supplying it from the Marham supply, the mains at Doddington not being large enough to cope with this. It might, however, be possible to unite with Ramsey in this matter. Whatever course is taken it is essential that pure water should be supplied to Benwick without further delay.

It is not possible for a population of this size to continue without an adequate supply of pure water.

During the year 15 samples of water from different areas were examined by the County Analyst, and 13 of them were found to be sewage polluted and quite unfit for drinking purposes.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The Nene and the Ouse are the two main rivers in the Isle, although the Isle is crossed in all directions by large drains and dykes.

All these water-courses are badly contaminated with sewage, and this is all the more serious, as so many people depend on this water for their supply, more especially when the rain water is deficient in quantity.

Under the Rivers Pollution Acts, 1876 and 1893, it is an offence against the Act to cause any solid or liquid sewage matter to be discharged into any stream, and action may be taken by the County Council against the Sanitary Authority of the District causing this pollution.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Wherever there is a water carriage system of sewage disposal, sewage works should be built and the whole of the sewage treated efficiently, so that the effluent discharged into the rivers would be harmless. At present Wisbech is the only town in the Isle which deals with its sewage in an efficient manner. Ely certainly has a sewage tank, which is emptied twice annually, but the overflow passes directly into the Ouse without any sort of treatment, and after flowing gently for some four miles reaches the town of Littleport (which has no suitable water supply), and probably provides this town with a portion of its requirements.

The methods of sewage disposal at March are even worse. There is no attempt at dealing with the sewage at all, which is discharged directly into the river, which in hot weather becomes an open, evil smelling sewer. It is really incomprehensible why such conditions are allowed to exist at the present time, and if Urban and Rural District Councils do not deal with these elementary matters in Public Health work, it will be necessary for some action to be taken. Something must be done. It is a duty that cannot and should not be shirked, certainly not on the grounds of economy.

It is quite realised that a large initial outlay is incurred in the provision of suitable sewage works, the subsequent upkeep not being a serious matter, and it is probably this large initial expenditure which delays matters.

This is another reason why such matters should be dealt with by the County as a whole, in the same way as the roads are dealt with. The provision of sewage works for areas needing them, if dealt with in this way, would be a burden far more easily shouldered.

I understand that the Activated Sludge Process, as adopted for Manchester and Stoke-on-Trent, is much cheaper to instal and work than the older methods of Sedimentation Tanks and Filters.

SCAVENGING.

Refuse is collected regularly and carted away, being deposited at suitable tips.

In the larger centres it would be a great benefit if this material could be dealt with in a more suitable way.

Destructors or some other means of disposal of refuse should be provided. A very efficient method has been adopted at Bury by the installation of the "Gannow Refuse Crushing Plant," by which means materials such as tin, rags, cinders, &c., are sorted out and can be profitably disposed of, the remainder being pulverised and converted into a fairly useful manure. The plant is not expensive to instal, and the running expenses are small.

SCHOOLS.

The School buildings are for the most part in need of many necessary repairs and alterations.

The sanitary arrangements in many Schools need more careful attention.

Few Schools are provided with washing accommodation, and the water supply is not good.

It should be quite possible to provide a good water supply for Schools in outlying districts by the installation of a simple and inexpensive filtering apparatus, the water after filtering being treated by ehlorination.

School Closure has been adopted in a few cases for outbreaks of infectious disease.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

The Public Analyst, Mr. J. West Knights, has examined numerous samples during the year under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1875 to 1907. Fifteen samples of water were submitted for examination, 2 were found to be unpolluted and satisfactory, the remaining 13 were polluted with sewage, and were quite unfit for drinking purposes.

Summary of articles analysed during 1920:--

Formal: Milk 26, Butter 3, Margarine 1, Lard 1.

Informal: Milk 40, Butter 7, Margarine 9, Lard 4, Baking Powder 6, Ground Ginger 5, Cod Liver Oil 1, Bread 9, Flour 7, Cheese 4, Coffee 7, Coffee and Chicory 1, Cocoa 8, Sugar 1, Pepper 3, Mustard 2, Oatmeal 2, Pea Flour 2, Ground Rice 3, Jam 3, Fish Paste 2, Treacle 2, Cream of Tartar 3, Egg Powder 5, Custard Powder 2, Tea 5, Cake Flour 4, Lemon Curd 1, Vinegar 1, Castor Oil 1, Groats 1.

Result of Analysis:—Five samples of Milk (formal) were taken. One was adulterated with 16 % of water, and four were deficient in milk fat to the extent of 16 %, 8 %, 10 %, and 15 % respectively. Of six (informal) samples of Milk examined, one was adulterated with 15 % of water, and the other 5 were deficient in milk fat to the extent of 10 %, 5 %, 8 %, 9 %, and 8 % respectively.

Preservatives.—All samples likely to contain preservatives were examined for those substances. Seven samples of Margarine contained Boric Acid to the extent of 0.40 %, 0.50 %, 0.50 %, 0.50 %, 0.45 %, 0.45 %, and 0.50 % respectively. Five samples of Butter contained Boric Acid to the extent of 0.40 %, 0.40 %, 0.50 %, 0.50 %, and 0.40 % respectively.

Observations.—Proceedings were taken in respect of the samples of milk containing 16 % of water and in the case in which the milk was deficient in milk fat to the extent of 16 %. In the first case the defendant was fined £10 and 15s. costs. In the second case the vendor £2 and £1 1s. costs.

It is gratifying to notice that the penalties inflicted in these cases were far more severe than has been customary in this area.

MILK SUPPLY.

The shortage of supply still continues, and is likely to do so owing mainly to the small amount of land utilized for grazing.

Goats are, I believe, being kept in continually increasing numbers in the country districts. Unfortunately this source of supply is not so readily available in the larger centres of population, although it might be developed more than it is.

The excessive price of milk has also been most unfavourable for the poorer classes.

The Public Health Departments in the County continue to make every effort to ensure a clean and pure supply of milk, but cowsheds are not always spotless, and the cleanliness and the methods of the milkers leaves much to be desired.

Of course there are exceptions, but there is a mass of ignorance and obstinacy which will take many years of effort to overcome before we shall have really clean dairies and cowsheds, grooming of cows, washing of udders and milker's hands before milking, scalding of receptacles, and the marketing of the milk in air-tight containers.

Another important goal to aim for is the elimination of all cattle affected with Tuberculosis from the herds.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year the following diseases were notified;—

Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	224
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	64
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	...	7
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	4
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	1
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	...	2
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	25

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—*continued.*

Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	7
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	...	...	...	56
„ (other)	...	...	...	12
Chicken-pox	...	...	...	19
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	148
Measles	...	...	...	53
Pneumonia	...	...	...	53
Dysentery	...	...	...	2
Malaria	...	...	...	4
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	1
Bronchial Pneumonia	...	...	...	1
German Measles	...	...	...	1

ISOLATION HOSPITALS.

Chatteris Urban, Ely Urban, March Urban, and Wisbech Urban Districts have accommodation for Infectious Diseases, and Thorney Rural has four beds available for Smallpox cases in a house on Peterborough Common, used in conjunction with other local authorities.

Wisbech Rural District send cases of Infectious illness to the Wisbech Isolation Hospital.

The March Isolation Hospital is much too small for the needs of the population, and further accommodation should be provided.

The Wisbech Isolation Hospital is altogether unsatisfactory; the rooms are low, there is no cross-ventilation possible, and the lighting is bad. It is described as a 50-bedded Hospital, but no more than 20 cases could safely be admitted there. It is hoped that before long Wisbech will be able to provide a modern building suitable in every way for the accommodation of Infectious Illnesses, and give a lead to the rest of the Isle in this particular.

There are no Isolation Hospitals at all for—

Whittlesey Urban District.

Whittlesey Rural District.

North Witchford Rural District.

I suggest that a large 50-bedded Hospital should be built at March which should serve the three former as well as the March Urban District.

The Ely Isolation Hospital, which is a new up-to-date building, could be enlarged.

A reference to the information given under “Infectious Diseases” will show the necessity for better provision.

TUBERCULOSIS.

A great advance was made during the year by the opening of Tuberculosis Clinics at March, Ely, and Wisbech.

The situation of the premises and the times at which they are open are as follows :—

March—County Hall, Wednesday, 10—12.

Ely—County Buildings, Downham Road, Thursday, 11—1.

Wisbech—4, York Row, Tuesday, 10—12 and 2—4.

These Clinics have grown rapidly, and it has been found necessary to give a whole day to Wisbech, so many cases attending that a half-day is quite insufficient time in which to deal with them all.

March and Ely will before long require one whole day a week for Tuberculosis work alone.

Owing to the increase of this work it is found that the Tuberculosis Officer, who is also Assistant School Medical Officer, has less and less time available for medical duties in connection with the Schools, and it is probable that a third Medical Officer will shortly be a necessity if the medical work of the County is to be satisfactorily performed.

The present Tuberculosis Officer, Dr. J. Perry Walker, commenced his duties on October 21st, 1920, and the rapid way in which the work has grown under his care speaks for itself.

There are 28 shelters available for loan to patients.

The old canvas covered types have been matchboarded and have had sliding windows fitted at sides and back, and doors for the front. It is a great improvement, and the patients very much appreciate the added comfort.

Beds are available for our use at Ipswich Sanatorium, where five beds for men and three for women are at our disposal.

Children are sent to the Sanatorium at Holt or the Hostel at Wyton. Surgical cases are treated at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. Cases needing sea-bathing are sent to the Hospital at Margate.

There is only one class of case which it is difficult to deal with, and that is the very advanced case in a dying condition and highly infectious. No Sanatorium or Hospital will take them, and in some areas special homes have been provided. This is not feasible here, and an arrangement might be made for the admission of such cases to the Isolation Hospitals in the area.

Skigraphy is carried out at Peterborough, Wisbech, and Cambridge, whichever is most convenient.

Extra nourishment is provided in cases of necessity.

During July, August, and September, the first three months during which the Clinics were open, 63 cases attended at the three Clinics, and 172 attendances were made.

During the last quarter of the year 108 cases were treated, and a total of 426 attendances were made.

At the time of writing this Report about 160 cases are attending regularly.

Five men and five women were admitted to our beds at Ipswich Sanatorium during 1920, an average stay of three months being made by each. Most of the cases benefitted considerably.

Much work remains to be done, as regards getting into touch with cases, visiting, examination of contacts, &c., but progress is being made.

The deaths from Phthisis during the year were 53, and from other forms of Tuberculosis 11.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

Centres for the treatment of Venereal Disease are established at Peterborough Infirmary and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Medical Practitioners are invited to take their patients to Cambridge for consultation and to study the method of treatment in vogue.

During 1920 the Cambridge Centre dealt with 43 cases from this area, 392 attendances being made; 152 "In-patient days" are also recorded. 250 doses of Salvarsan substitute were given.

At the Peterborough Centre 5 cases from the Isle of Ely, 24 attendances being made; 45 "In-patient" days were recorded, 15 doses of Salvarsan substitute being given.

Of the cases noted above 26 suffered from Syphilis, 16 from Gonorrhœa, and the remainder from other Venereal conditions.

The Cambridge Clinic is open :—

Males—Tuesdays, 4 p.m.; Thursdays, 8 p.m.

Females—Tuesdays, 3 p.m.; Thursdays, 7 p.m.

The Peterborough Clinic is open :—

Males—Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, 10—11.30 a.m.; Wednesdays, 7—8 p.m.

Females—Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, 10—11.30 a.m.; Thursdays, 7—8 p.m.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Four Centres are now open at:—

March—2, West End, Wednesday, 2.30—4.30.

Ely—Downham Road, Wednesday, 2—4.

Wisbech—Nelson street, Friday, 2.30—4.30.

Little Downham—The Vicarage, Wednesdays (alternate), 2—4.

March Centre.

Over 90 cases are on the books, and over 20 cases attend weekly. Dr. Waters visits the Clinic once a month.

Ely Centre.

Miss Norman took over the duties of Secretary and Treasurer from Mrs. Glazebrook, who resigned, and at the same time the Clinic was moved to other premises. The C.M.O. attends once a month. There are from 12 to 20 attendances weekly.

Wisbech Centre.

This is the largest Centre in the Isle at present, and very good work is done there. The average attendance is 34. 122 children have attended, and a total of 1,643 attendances made.

Dr. Groom visits the Centre on alternate Fridays.

Little Downham Centre.

This Centre has not been working long, but considerable progress has been made, and it is growing rapidly.

Several District Nursing Associations undertake work for the County Council in visiting newly-born children and infants up to the age of 5. The Nurses also "follow-up" the children found defective at the School Medical Inspections, and visit the Tuberculosis cases in their areas as well.

The following are the Associations doing this work —

March.
Little Downham.
Wisbech.
Chatteris.
Upwell and Outwell.
Sutton.
Haddenham.
Wisbech St. Mary.
Leverington.

In return for doing this work the County Council gives each Association a grant of one-fourth of the Nurse's salary.

MIDWIVES.

There are now seven Midwives practising in the Isle as follows :—

Wisbech, 2.

March, 1.

Ely, 2.

Little Downham, 1.

Wisbech St. Mary, 1.

It is to be hoped that the work done by these ladies will have a beneficial and educational effect in their areas. At present far too much work in this direction is done by the untrained and ignorant monthly nurse, as it often happens that this type of person does not know when to summon the doctor engaged for the case, with the result that he arrives too late to be of much service, and only after lasting damage has been done to the patient.

It is a pity that there is no registration of monthly nurses, with permission to carry out their duties only after they have proved themselves capable of performing them efficiently. At present the poor are unfortunately only too often at the mercy of women who know nothing of the art of midwifery or nursing, and the patients suffer considerable distress from complications arising through the ignorance and neglect of these so-called nurses.

LYING-IN ACCOMMODATION.

Difficult maternity cases occurring are now able to obtain admission to Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, by an arrangement entered into between the County Council and the Hospital authorities.

During 1920, 2 cases of pregnancy with complications were admitted to the Hospital.

HEALTH VISITORS.

There are 5 Health Visitors and 10 District Nursing Association Nurses under the County Council who assist in the Tuberculosis work, School inspections, "following-up" of School children with defects, and Maternity and Child Welfare work.

During 1920, 148 visits were paid to Schools, and 1,049 children inspected. 57 first visits were paid to cases of Tuberculosis, and 377 re-visits were made.

Under the Notification of Births Act, 1,717 first visits and 4,634 subsequent visits were paid.

111 attendances at Welfare Centres were made, and 1,133 babies seen, examined, and mothers advised.

Other visits paid number 20.

ABSTRACT OF REPORTS
OF
THE MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH
FOR THE
URBAN & RURAL DISTRICTS
OF THE
COUNTY OF THE ISLE OF ELY
FOR 1920.

CHATTERIS URBAN DISTRICT.

Medical Officer of Health—R. E. NIX, B.A., M.B., B.C.

No report received up to time of going to press.

ELY URBAN DISTRICT.

Medical Officer of Health—

F. HENRY BECKETT, B.A., M.B., B.C., Cantab.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Population (Census 1911)	...	...	...	...	7,917
„ (Estimated 1920)	...	...	...	...	7,553

Social Conditions.—The bulk of the population is engaged in agriculture, including fruit growing and market gardening. There is also in Ely the brewing industry, a jam factory and leather industry, iron foundry, and a hemp pulping factory at Shippea Hill.

The number of persons in receipt of Poor relief for the year is as follows :—

<i>Indoor Relief</i> at Tower House	...	86	from Urban.
		107	„ Rural.
<i>Outdoor</i>	... ..	93	„ Urban.

The only General Hospital is Addenbrooke's Hospital at Cambridge ; this is largely used. There is also a Dispensary at Ely and the Infirmary at Tower House, which is not sufficiently large to cope with the needs of the neighbourhood.

The Ely Urban and Rural Joint Isolation Hospital is available for Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Enteric Fever, and is of great service.

The County Council have also opened Clinics for treatment of School children and Tuberculosis.

VITAL STATISTICS.

<i>Total Births</i> registered during the year (Male)	...	101
(Female)	...	81
Legitimate—Male, 94 ; Female, 74.		
Illegitimate—Male, 7 ; Female, 7.		

<i>Deaths registered during the year, 1922, i.e.,</i>	Male	...	59
	Female	...	63

Causes of Death at all Ages.

Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	2
Influenza	...	...	...	...	5
Syphilis...	...	...	...	...	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	5
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	1
Cancer	...	...	...	...	18
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	4
Broncho-Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	4
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	7
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	1
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	...	...	...	...	3
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	2
Congenital Debility, &c.	...	...	...	...	1
Violent Deaths	...	...	...	...	4
Suicide	...	...	...	...	1
Organic Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	9
Other defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	36

Death Rate.—This is 13·7 per 1,000, as compared with 16·24 per 1,000 in 1919.

Birth Rate.—This is 23·5 per 1,000, as compared with 17·4 per 1,000 in 1919.

Infant Mortality accounts for 9 deaths, including 1 illegitimate child.

This gives a decrease in death rate for Infant Mortality.

Rate per 1,000 net births is 50·5, as compared with 75·75 for 1919.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water.—The supply for Ely proper and one village, Stuntney, is obtained from waterworks situated at Isleham, 12 miles distant. The source of the supply is from the chalk formation. Depth of well, 90 feet. The supply is constant and ample. No possibility of contamination. Last Report of Public Analyst, April 12th, 1919. Total consumption for the year, 65,190,000 gallons, giving daily consumption of 178,604 gallons, or 25·5 per head per day for all purposes. Total quantity supplied by meter for the year was 13,018,270 gallons. Total rainfall for the year at Isleham Works, 17·95 inches. The rest of the district relies on rain water collected in tanks and river water for their drinking water. Filters are in use at Adelaide and Prickwillow, but are not efficient.

Rivers and Streams.—Both the River Ouse and the River Lark are polluted with sewage.

Drainage and Sewerage.—In Ely, water closets are universal. In surrounding district and villages all earth closets or privies. All houses in Ely are connected with the main sewer, and each house is supplied with water for flushing. The sewage is collected in a sewage tank, which is emptied twice a year, the overflow passing into the river without treatment.

Approximate number of water closets, 2,000.

Approximate number of privies, 473.

Scavenging.—Daily collection of refuse by the Council's carts. Every house visited three times a week. All moveable ashbins used.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Number of Inspections, 57, viz. :—

House Defects and Repairs	...	...	...	4
Yards in Dirty State	...	...	...	6
Bakehouses	...	...	...	12
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	10
Defective Drainage	...	...	...	2
Schools	...	...	...	9
Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	14

Number of informal notices, 10. All were attended to.

Sewerage.—The sewer and drain stoppages numbered 269, caused by silting up of drains due to defective joints. Larger pipes should be laid with cement joints.

SCHOOLS.

Adelaide.—Satisfactory.

Prickwillow.—Repairs to floor in Girls' cloak-room required, also to outer door. Roofs of outbuildings, closets, &c., in bad state of repair.

Burnt Fen School.—Limewashing required. General repairs wanted all round. Closet and urinal accommodation not sufficient.

Chettisham.—Limewashing required. Door panel to School requires pointing.

Stuntney.—Slates off School roof. Limewashing also required of closets.

Broad Street School.—Limewashing. Disinfectants for lavatories required. No accommodation for staff as yet.

Silver Street.—(Boys). Lavatories require limewashing. No alterations at present carried out. (See previous Report).

Silver Street.—(Girls). A W.C. out of order. No provision for staff as yet. Sanction of Council to be obtained *re* water supply. Proposed site of new W.C. satisfactory.

Market Street.—Slates off School roof. Lavatories require lime-washing.

Back Hill.—(Boys). In order.

The water for Schools in Fly is obtained from the Town supply. The water for Village Schools from rain water tanks.

During the latter part of July the Elementary Schools were closed in Fly, after consultation with the School Medical Officer, because of an outbreak of Scarlet Fever, Measles, and Whooping Cough.

Food.

The Milk supply is fairly satisfactory, but I recommend that the Milk be boiled before use.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—12 are registered, and have been inspected. In 5 cases limewashing was required, and in 1 case too much manure had been allowed to collect in the yard. Verbal notice was given to attend to this. In the case of Nornea Farm, not sufficient attention is paid to the cleanliness of the cows, especially bags and udders; also it is advisable that the copper and scalding shed should be together.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1919.—Applications are made to the Local Authority, and in suitable cases carried out.

Meat.—(1) Slaughterhouses. 5 have been inspected, and were fairly satisfactory. Limewashing required in 1 case. (2) There is no public abattoir, and no inspection at the time of slaughter. (3) 1 carcase of Canterbury lamb was condemned, and 1 carcase of cow during the year; also 1 consignment of mackerel at a booth on the Market Place.

Slaughterhouses.—Number in district, 5. Registered, 4. Licensed, 1.

The Council should seriously consider the advisability of appointing an additional Sanitary Inspector (*re* Inspector of Nuisances) under the Towns Improvement Clauses Act, 1847, and the Public Health Act, 1875.

There is no provision for the inspection of meat at the time of slaughter, or of other food coming into the Town at the present time.

In view of the recent increase in the size of the Local Markets such an Inspector is most essential. An economy could be effected if the appointment were a joint one shared by the Councils in the adjoining districts where there are Markets held.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following diseases have been notified during the year :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	26
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	5
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	...	...	...	...	4
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	9
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	1

The number admitted to the Ely Joint Isolation Hospital was 60, consisting of—Urban cases, 32; Rural, 28.

	Urban.				Rural.	
Scarlet Fever	26	...	...	24
Diphtheria	6	...	...	3
Enteric Fever	0	...	...	1

There were outbreaks of Measles, Whooping Cough, and Chicken Pox during the summer months.

The Scarlet Fever outbreak followed on after the outbreak at Haddenham, in the Rural District. The accommodation at the Isolation Hospital was not sufficient to take in all the cases, and the Isolation Block at Tower House was lent by the Guardians. This latter has now been turned into a Children's Home, and will therefore not be available in case of a future outbreak.

Advantage has been taken in cases of Diphtheria for the bacteriological examination of swabbings from the throat, and in all suspicious cases of Tuberculosis for the examination of sputum. Anti-toxin has been given in cases of Diphtheria.

Malaria.—There are still cases attending the Clinic at Cambridge from this district.

Influenza.—The number of deaths registered was 5. There have been a few cases occurring throughout the year, but no serious epidemic.

Smallpox.—Nil.

Verminous Persons and their Belongings.—Where such cases are reported the houses are disinfected by the Local Authority, clothing, &c., being disinfected at the Isolation Hospital.

Tuberculosis.—The requirements as to notification, &c., are complied with by the Medical Practitioners.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—This Centre has now been taken over by the County Council.

Sanitary Administration.—Staff.

1.—One Sanitary Inspector.

The number of inspections, excluding re-visits, &c., relating to nuisances arising from insanitary premises, defective drainage, piggeries, slaughterhouses, &c., &c., is 52.

2.—The Ely Joint Isolation Hospital is available for cases of Infectious Diseases (Scarlet Fever, Enteric, and Diphtheria); 12 beds, under control of a Committee of the Ely Urban and Rural District Councils. The accommodation was not sufficient during the Scarlet Fever epidemic during the summer.

No Smallpox Hospital.

3.—Public Health Act, 1875, also Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890.

4.—Arrangements are made with the Clinical Research Association to carry out all Bacteriological examinations of specimens sent by Medical Practitioners in the district.

51 Bacteriological examinations of specimens were made.

28 for Diphtheria—5 positive, 23 negative.

23 for Tuberculosis—5 positive, 18 negative.

HOUSING.

(1).—*General Housing Conditions in the District.*—

(1) Total number of houses, 2,074; Ely, 1,600; area, 474.
The general standard of houses in district is low.

(2) Extent of shortage of houses: 54 houses needed.
The Council are building 20 houses at the present time.

(3) Population, no change anticipated.

(2).—*Overcrowding.*

(1) At last inspection 730 persons to 146 houses (condemned), being 1% above the average per house.

(2) Lack of building materials and labour during preceding years.

(3) Twenty houses in course of erection in Brays Lane nearly completed.

(4) No further action taken.

(3).—*Fitness of Houses.*

(1) General standard is poor; attic windows and lean-to roofs. Insufficient cubic space per person and general dilapidation; also a great deal of property is copyhold.

- (2) No action taken.
- (3) No action taken.
- (4) Unhealthy areas, nil.
- (5) Bye-laws relating to houses let, &c.
 - (1) Existing Bye-laws are working satisfactorily.
 - (2) No need for new Bye-laws; existing ones might be revised.
- (6) Nil.

Appendices.—General.

- (1) Population estimated, 7,553.
- (2) General death rate, 13·7 per 1,000.
- (3) Death rate from Tuberculosis, 0·79.
- (4) Infantile Mortality, 9 deaths during year, giving death rate of 50·5 per 1,000 net births.
- (5) Number of dwelling houses of all classes, 2,074.
- (6) Number of working class dwelling houses, viz., under £16 a year assessment, 1,657.
- (7) Number of new working class houses erected (in course of erection on Brays Lane site), 20.

MARCH URBAN DISTRICT.

Medical Officer of Health—F. A. EVISON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

The Medical Officer of Health reports that there is nothing noteworthy to comment on. No fresh expenditure in Public Health services is being contemplated at present.

WHITTLESEA URBAN DISTRICT.

Medical Officer of Health—C. H. HARDING, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Population.—The estimated number of inhabitants to the middle of the year was 3,687.

Births.—The number of births registered in the district was 94. To this number must be added 2, which were transferred from outside the district, thus bringing the total up to 96. There were 50 males and 46 females; 5 were illegitimate. The rate works out at 26·03 per 1,000.

Deaths.—The number of deaths registered was 49, and the number of inward transfers was 12, making a total of 61; 29 were males and 32 females. The death rate is 16·5 per 1,000.

Infantile Mortality.—The total number of infants who died under the age of 1 year was 9. The rate was 93·7 per 1,000 births.

Infectious Diseases.—The total number of Infectious Diseases notified to me under the “Infectious Disease Notification Act” was 34—Scarlet Fever 4, Diphtheria 3, Puerperal Fever 1, Cerebro-Spinal Fever 1, Erysipelas 3, Pulmonary Tuberculosis 4, Pneumonia 18.

The case of Cerebro Spinal Fever was reported to me on the 25th of April, and the man died on the following day. The origin of the disease was supposed to be from wounds which the man received whilst in the Army. A specimen of fluid taken from the Spinal column by means of a Lumbar puncture was sent to a Bacteriologist for examination and the diagnosis was confirmed by him. The house was thoroughly disinfected, and fortunately no other case arose. Pneumonia was prevalent during the first four months of the year and accounted for 4 deaths. Influenza made its appearance in May, but the cases were few and not of a severe character. There were several cases of Whooping Cough in December, and it would be advisable if the Managers of the Schools would give instructions to exclude children from infected houses. It is thought that it is quite safe for children from those houses, who have had the disease to go to School, but it is not realised that they can carry the infection to non-infected children.

Scarlet Fever.—Three of the cases of Scarlet Fever contracted the disease outside the district. The origin of the fourth was not discovered. The case of Puerperal Fever in Park Lane ended fatally. The houses and premises in connection with the infectious cases were inspected, and disinfectants were supplied by the Council.

We are still without an Isolation Hospital, and if Smallpox should appear it will probably spread rapidly as so few children are now being vaccinated. Last year only 30 per cent. were vaccinated in the whole district, including the Rural area.

Water Supply.—We are still dependent on shallow wells and rain water for domestic and drinking purposes, and I again must advise the inhabitants not to drink the water unless it has been previously boiled. However, I do not suppose many take the trouble to do this, and they still live to be a fair old age.

Housing.—The building of twenty new houses was commenced about the middle of the year on the north side of Eastrea Road, and the east side of Cemetery Road, and some of them are now nearing completion. Several inspections of house property have been made and dilapidations in some cases made good, in other cases the owners are still unable to get repairs done.

Inspections.—The Sanitary Inspector reports that the usual inspections of Cow-sheds, Dairies, Bakehouses, and Slaughterhouses, have been made, and the places found satisfactory. He has also made several other inspections, and has ably dealt with any existing nuisance.

The Inspector of Lodging Houses reports that these places have been inspected regularly by him and found clean and satisfactory.

At the close of the year the health of the district was fairly satisfactory.

WISBECH URBAN DISTRICT.

Medical Officer of Health—HARRY GROOM, M.D.

The prevalence of Infectious Illness this year has again shown a remarkable decrease upon the number of cases reported during the previous year, which was then almost a record.

I must again point out the great value the Isolation Hospital has been to us, and I am much gratified to know that the inhabitants, both in the town and neighbourhood, have shown such ready willingness to have their relatives treated in this Institution, which I feel bound to say has done untold good service. When I tell you that 124 cases were treated therein during the year, you will readily appreciate the amount of nursing and care that has been bestowed upon the sufferers, and with remarkably good results.

Diphtheria.—Fifteen cases of this serious disease were notified, compared with 16 last year. Of these cases 12 were treated at the Hospital. Some of the cases were severe, but fortunately only 1 death resulted.

Scarlet Fever.—Twenty-five cases of this disease were notified, and of these 19 were treated at the Hospital. Fresh cases sprang up throughout the year, but at no particular period were there many. This is somewhat remarkable, as there were so many cases in the surrounding neighbourhood. Undoubtedly early isolation and disinfection with these cases was most valuable, and to these I attribute the small number of cases. Fortunately no death resulted.

Enteric Fever.—Only 1 case of this disease came to my knowledge. The poison was absorbed whilst away from town. The case was very severe, and unfortunately rapidly proved fatal.

Sanitary Conditions.—Taken as a whole, the town has been kept cleanly, the scavenging well looked after, and refuse quickly removed. I am glad to note that some improvement has been made in the attention to the careless throwing about of refuse on Market days, but if more care is still exercised, an enormous amount of work would be saved in the cleansing of the Market Place and streets, and a much more sanitary and cleanly appearance would result. The destruction of street and other refuse at the Pumping Station adds much to the safety and health of the inhabitants.

Although the health of the people is not affected thereby, may I point out to you that the comfort of the populace would be enormously added to, and it would be greatly appreciated, if a few pilot lights were used and kept alight during the long nights of the year at various corners of chief streets and thoroughfares.

FOOD SUPPLY.

The general supply has been increasingly satisfactory. Food-stuffs have been plentiful both as regards meats, fish, and such like. The milk supply has been better, but a larger quantity is still needed, as so much depends upon this in the feeding of infants and invalid people. In connection with this, I believe that much good is being done at the Children's Welfare, which is the means of providing mothers with artificial foods, who find so great a difficulty in obtaining an adequate milk supply. It is highly satisfactory to note that comparatively very little food has had to be condemned during the past year.

As yet, it has not been found desirable to limit the Housing Accommodation by closing the worst cottages. Although many of the smaller dwellings need much doing to them, still great improvements have been made in some of the yards, with obvious benefit to the inhabitants of these parts, and I would ask landlords to do much more than they have been doing, in having their houses repaired and put in a better state, to save their being condemned and closed, which must inevitably follow, if this is not done.

I am again able to report that the Sanitary requirements are being well looked after in the various factories in the town, where there are now considerable numbers of workpeople employed. The main work in these consists in the manufacture of fruit, and all that is connected in dealing with this most valuable source of food production. No deleterious trade or work is carried on affecting the health of the workpeople, such as flock making and such like, in the district.

BIRTHS.

The number of births during the year was 264, compared with 173 last year. Of these 138 were males, and 126 females; and included in this number are 17 males and 17 females who were illegitimate, giving a birth rate of 24·1 per 1,000 of the population, which is estimated to be 10,931.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths from all causes, after taking into account all outward and inward deaths, was 154; of these 80 were males and 74 females. This compares most favourably with the previous year, when 174 deaths were recorded. The calculation of the death rate upon this number gives a death rate of 14 per 1,000 of the estimated population—a highly satisfactory rate.

Amongst these deaths are included the deaths of 29 infant children, giving an Infantile death rate of 109 per 1,000 of the net births; whilst in the total number of deaths Pulmonary Consumption accounted for 12 deaths, 6 being males and 6 females, whilst other Tuberculous diseases caused 3. Cancerous diseases 26. Heart disease 14. Pneumonia 9 and Bronchitis 10, whilst no death was attributed to child birth or connected therewith.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Inspections were made of 37 factories and 110 workshops (including Bakehouses. Defects were met with in several cases, which may be summarised as follows:—

Factories with no sanitary accommodation	...	...	1
„ „ insufficient sanitary accommodation	...	...	2
„ „ defective	„	„	4
Workshops with no sanitary accommodation	...	...	1
„ „ insufficient sanitary accommodation	...	...	1
„ „ defective	„	„	6
„ „ not ventilated	„	„	2
„ „ requiring linewashing, cleansing, &c...			2

In each case the matter was dealt with under preliminary notice, and with the exception of two cases only the work has been satisfac-

torily carried out. The two unabated cases are to be put in hand at an early date. The work carried out will be found detailed in the summary following this report.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILK SHOPS.

Visits were made to the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops in the Borough, and these for the most part were found to be satisfactory. It was necessary to draw the attention of the occupiers of three cowsheds to the linewashing being overdue, and in several instances the stacking of large quantities of manure too close to the cowshed had to be complained of. This latter is a very bad practice, and the importance to the danger of milk contamination by flies from these stacks cannot be too strongly emphasised. It was also necessary to give notice to the owner of one cowshed to the want of proper drainage, lighting, and a new floor in the cowshed. This work was immediately carried out.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The slaughterhouses in the Borough, taking into consideration the fact that they are chiefly very old premises and in poor structural condition, are now well kept. It is satisfactory to find that the owners and occupiers of these premises endeavour so far as possible to carry out the requirements of the bye-laws. Obviously a public abattoir, where better control could be exercised, is desirable and necessary in place of the present 13 private slaughterhouses, which are scattered from one end of the Borough to the other, but whilst the present house shortage and high prices of materials maintain, we can hardly expect that our desire in this respect will mature.

UN SOUND FOOD.

In all 1 ton, 8 cwt., 17 lbs. of meat, and 103 boxes of fruit, on examination were found to be unfit for the food of man. The meat condemned included 5 carcasses of beef, 15 carcasses of mutton, 6 hams, 38 lbs. of bacon, and the remainder was made up of organs where local disease only existed.

It was not found necessary to take legal proceedings in any of the foregoing cases, as for the most part my attention was drawn to the condition of the food concerned, and the same on being declared unfit for food was voluntarily surrendered and afterwards destroyed.

HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING, &c., ACTS, 1909-1919.

Under the above Acts 100 houses were inspected during the year. 9 statutory notices and 36 preliminary notices were served respecting

76 houses. 24 of these notices were complied with, and 51 houses were repaired so as to meet the requirements of the Housing Acts. 23 houses were in course of repair at the end of the year.

The old cottage property in the Borough has been neglected too long, with the result that defects have been allowed to accumulate, and the cost of repairs when taken in hand, owing to the prevailing high prices, is almost prohibitive. Still much more could be done than is being done at present, and I would appeal to owners of this class of property in their own interest to put the work in hand.

The state of the Wisbech Canal is a source of great nuisance from refuse and vegetable matter of all descriptions being deposited into the waterway. As the canal does not remain full owing to the defective gates, the canal fills with each tide from the river Nene, and when emptying much of the refuse is carried away, yet much more remains on the banks where the tide does not reach. I have spent a great amount of my time in trying to obviate this nuisance: the cottages abutting on the canal side have been visited and the occupiers cautioned, notices have been posted, and the Corporation men were instructed to take particular care in the collection of refuse from all these houses. Some improvement for a time was certainly noticed and is still evident, yet carelessness or laziness still prevails, as it is evident that rather than take the trouble to put out the refuse for collection by the Corporation carts, the canal is used as a tip, and if, apart from the unsightliness, the offenders would give serious thought to the dangers to health, and the nuisance they have to suffer from rats, this very difficult problem might yet be solved.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE DURING THE YEAR 1920.

Inspection of premises	...	...	...	2040
Number of premises disinfected...	...	...	...	39
Smoke test applied to drains	...	...	...	14
Water " " " "	...	...	...	36
Number of complaints investigated	...	...	...	104
Cases abated under preliminary notice...	...	...	...	144

SUMMARY OF WORKS CARRIED OUT IN COMPLIANCE WITH NOTICES DURING THE YEAR 1920.

House Drainage.

House drains repaired, cleansed, &c.	...	...	...	20
New pipe drains provided	...	...	...	15
New ventilating pipes provided	...	...	...	8
New cesspools provided	...	...	...	3

Sanitary Conveniences.

Privies converted into water closets	12
.. abolished	1
New water closets provided	5
Closets repaired, cleansed, &c.	14
Flushing cisterns provided to W.C.'s	15
New urinals provided	1

Factories, Workshops, and Bakehouses.

Factories—

Provided with sufficient Sanitary accommodation	2
.. .. improved	4

Workshops—

Provided with sufficient	2
.. .. improved	5
.. .. proper lighting and ventilation ...	2
.. .. cleansed, limewashed, &c. ...	2

Dairies and Cowsheds.

Provided with improved lighting	1
.. .. drainage	1
Limewashed, cleansed, &c.	3
Shippon Floor relaid	1

Slaughterhouses.

Cleansed, limewashed, &c.	16
----------------------------------	----

Miscellaneous.

Houses cleansed, limewashed, &c.	3
Houses repaired	51
Houses provided with sufficient water supply ...	10
Houses provided with new sinks	9
Yards, sculleries, W.C.'s, &c., repaired	19
Accumulations of refuse removed	15
Unsound food condemned—1 ton, 8 cwts., 17 lbs., and 103 boxes of fruit	
Cases of overcrowding abated	5
Removal of animals improperly kept	2
New piggeries built	1
Piggeries cleansed and limewashed	2
New manure bins provided	3
Ashpits abolished	1
Seulleries rebuilt	6
Defective wells closed	2
Cesspools emptied	3

ELY RURAL DISTRICT.

Medical Officer of Health—C. W. HOWE, M.B., D.P.H.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

The population of the District was 12,916 at the Census of 1911, and for 1920 has been estimated to be 13,724 for both the birth and death rates.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

The Ely Rural District includes a number of the "Isle of Ely" or low hills of Kimmeridge Clay, situated mainly in the area shewn in Sketchley's *Memoir of Geological Survey on "Peat Land,"* whilst Littleport is situated in the "Silt Land" area. There is an area of Boulder Clay and Gravel at Portley Hill (high ground to the south of Littleport), whence part of the water supply to the wells of the town is obtained. In the Southern part of the district, including Haddenham and Stretham, there are outliers of Green Sand, also one near Witchford; in other parts of the district there are shallow patches of Drift Gravel and Sand, especially at Sutton, where, unfortunately, it has been largely removed. The district forms a triangular area, bounded on the East by the great watercourses of the Ouse; on the West by the New Bedford Level, and on the South by the depleted Old West River.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT, ETC.

The great bulk of the population of the district is working class, and the chief occupations are farming, fruit growing, and market gardening. There are no occupations which are deleterious to health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Three hundred and twenty-two births were registered, of which 22 were illegitimate, giving a birth rate of 23·3, the highest recorded since 1912. The corrected number of deaths is 169 (93 males, 76 females), giving a crude death rate of 12·3, which is a fair average for the district.

Infant Mortality.—There were 19 deaths of infants under one year of age, being a ratio of 59 deaths per 1,000 births, a more satisfactory figure than has been obtained for many years.

One death was caused by Measles, 1 by Diphtheria, and 3 by Influenza.

There were 6 deaths from Phthisis, 1 from Tuberculous Meningitis, and 1 from other forms of Tuberculosis.

Cancer caused 25 deaths.

HOSPITAL AND OTHER FORMS OF GRATUITOUS MEDICAL RELIEF.

The Hospitals available for residents in the district are Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, for general medical and surgical purposes; the Joint Hospital at Ely for infectious diseases; and the Infirmary at Ely for the reception of Poor Law cases. Addenbrooke's Hospital is freely utilised by the people, and the majority of cases requiring surgical interference are sent there by the medical men in the district. During the year the following cases of infectious disease were admitted to the Joint Hospital:—

Scarlet Fever 24, Diphtheria 4, Enteric Fever 1.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply of the district is derived from shallow wells, rivers, rain water, and from fen drains, and is far from satisfactory; 16 samples of water were taken from public and private wells, and all but 2 shewed a high degree of contamination, and were quite unfit for drinking purposes. The samples analysed were as follows:—Haddenham 9 (all polluted with organic matter); Wilburton 3 (2 polluted and 1 fit for drinking); Stretham 2 (1 polluted); Littleport, 1 sample of filtered river water shewing a high degree of pollution, and 1 sample of rain water also contaminated. Public pumps are installed in most of the villages, and there are polarite filters at Littleport, Downham, Coveney, and Pyemoor.

Rivers and Streams.—The rivers in the district are all polluted by water pumped into them from the fen drains, which contain a high degree of dissolved manurial matter.

Drainage and Sewerage.—The drainage of the various parishes is by glazed pipes, through which the sewage is led to open ditches, which are cleaned out yearly, or twice yearly. In certain parishes large cesspools have been installed, and are cleaned out periodically.

Closet Accommodation.—Water closets are only in use in the larger houses. Most of the working class cottages are provided with pails, though some privy middens remain.

Seavenging.—The cleansing of earth closets, privies and ashpits, and the removal and disposal of house refuse is carried out by the householders themselves. In Littleport a sanitary dust cart now collects refuse thrice weekly.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Below is given a classified statement of the work of the Inspector of Nuisances during the year, including the number of premises visited, the defects or nuisances discovered, and the action taken in each case :—

Accumulations of filth removed	...	...	...	13
Houses in a bad state of repair reported and dealt with				1
Yards to dwellings cleansed	...	...	...	7
Privy nuisances, foul, etc., remedied	...	...	...	16
Privies, new	...	...	...	3
Animals kept in an offensive state removed	...	...	...	10
Overcrowding	...	...	...	0
Samples of water taken to County Analyst	...	...	...	16
Cases of infectious and contagious diseases visited and supplied with disinfectants.	...	...	...	38
Houses disinfected	...	...	...	20
Drainage nuisances ; drains repaired	...	...	...	46
Foul ditches cleansed	...	...	...	8
Street drains trapped	...	...	...	0
Parish ponds cleansed	...	...	...	3
Pumps repaired	...	...	...	23
New houses erected	...	...	...	6
Certificates granted	...	...	...	6
Slaughterhouses inspected	...	...	...	17
Workshops inspected	...	...	...	75
Home workers inspected...	...	...	...	18
Bakehouses inspected	...	...	...	23

Schools.—There are 23 Schools in the district, and in practically all of these the sanitary conditions and general amenities are satisfactory. The closet and urinal accommodation are in most cases sufficient, and the emptying and cleansing of these has generally been efficiently carried out, although there have been one or two cases in which this has been neglected. The School building at Westlands will be vacated during 1921, and an Army hut will be erected to accommodate the scholars.

The water supply in each case consists of rain water collected from the roof in a tank or tub ; there are no filters. Where there have been outbreaks of infectious disease the Schools have been disinfected.

Milk Supply.—There is no register of dairies and cowsheds, and no inspection has been carried out under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Workshops Orders.

Meat and other Foods.—Slaughterhouses have been inspected systematically throughout the year, and on the whole have been found satisfactory.

There is no public abattoir in the district, and no efficient means of inspecting carcases at the time of slaughter; 1 consignment of bacon was condemned under Section 117 of the Public Health Act, 1875, and 1 carcase was condemned for Tuberculosis.

The following is a tabular statement of the number of slaughter-houses on the register:—

	In 1914.	In January, 1920.	In December, 1920.
Registered ...	21	17	17

There are 23 bakehouses in the district, and these have been inspected periodically throughout the year: cleanliness has been insisted upon, and repairs and limewashing have been required in several cases.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Below is a list of Infectious Diseases which have occurred in the district during the year:—

Disease.	Cases Notified.	Removal to Hospital.
Scarlet Fever ...	40	24
Diphtheria ...	5	4
Enteric Fever ...	4	1
Dysentery ...	2	—
Pneumonia ...	4	—
Influenzal Pneumonia ...	2	—
Erysipelas ...	3	—

The outstanding feature of the year has been an outbreak of Scarlet Fever, 40 cases in all having been notified, 22 of which occurred at Haddenham. The others occurred as follows:—Sutton 1, Littleport 6, Coveney 7, Little Thetford 1, Wilburton 2. The first cases were notified at Littleport on March 23rd; several cases occurred at Coveney during April, and at Haddenham the first case was notified on April 20th, others rapidly following during May and June. By the end of July 25 cases had occurred, the remainder being spread evenly over the remaining months of the year.

The greater number of the Haddenham cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital, but the others were mostly treated at home, the rooms and bedding being disinfected at the termination of the case.

The arrangements for isolation, disinfection, and the bacteriological examination of swabs, as enumerated in the Report for 1919, are still continued, and are of great service.

The notification of Tuberculosis by Practitioners has been somewhat irregular.

No Primary Vaccinations or Re-vaccinations were performed by the Medical Officer under the Public Health (Smallpox) Prevention Regulations, 1917.

The number of deaths from Influenza was 3.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

(1) *Staff*.—There is one Inspector of Nuisances.

(2) Hospital accommodation for Infectious Diseases is provided by the Joint Hospital at Ely, which receives cases of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, and Enteric Fever. There is no provision for the reception of Smallpox cases.

(3) The only adoptive Act in force in the district is the Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.

(4) Sixteen samples of water were sent to the County Analyst, all but two being reported to be highly polluted. Swabs were examined from cases of Diphtheria, Convalescents, and "Contacts."

HOUSING.

(1)—*General Housing Conditions in the District*.—The total number of houses is 3,188; this is below the needs of the district, and 52 houses are in the course of erection under the District Council scheme, whilst contracts for an additional 28 have been signed.

The extent of the shortages of houses has been estimated at 373, and these it is proposed to erect under the scheme mentioned above.

(2) *Overcrowding*.—There are about 95 cases of overcrowding in the district. This is due to the cessation of building during the war, and a remedy will be found in the Council's Housing Scheme. No cases of overcrowding were dealt with during the year.

(3) *Fitness of Houses*.—(1) The standard of working class houses is low. The houses are mainly old and are deficient in light and ventilation. The cubic space of the rooms is too small; floors and staircases are often in a bad state of dilapidation, and afford insufficient protection from the weather.

(2) No immediate action is contemplated under the Public Health or Housing Acts to remedy the above conditions, but when a sufficiency of new houses are built to accommodate the dispossessed occupiers closing orders can be served, and the houses requiring it can be repaired or demolished.

(3) The chief difficulties which stand in the way are the shortage of labour and materials, and the construction of the houses themselves.

(4) Water supply is derived from shallow wells, rivers, rain water, and from fen drains. It is mostly unsatisfactory. The closet accommodation consists chiefly of pails, and in some cases privies. House refuse is mostly disposed of on a neighbouring allotment.

(4) *Unhealthy Areas*.—No action has been taken in regard to unhealthy areas under Part I. or Part II. of the Housing Act of 1890; no representations were made and no complaints received.

(5) *Bye-laws relating to Houses Let in Lodgings, Tents, and Vans, &c.*—Bye-laws relating to tents and vans have been adopted during the year; others relating to Private Scavenging and Fruit Pickers might with advantage be adopted.

STATISTICS.

(1) Estimated Population	...	...	...	13724
(2) General Death Rate	...	...	...	13·3
(3) Death Rate from Tuberculosis	...	...	...	·582
(4) Infantile Mortality	...	...	...	59
(5) Number of Dwelling Houses of all Classes	...	...	...	3188
(6) Number of Working Class Dwelling Houses	...	...	...	2501
(7) Number of New Working Class Houses erected	...	...	...	8

NORTH WITCHFORD RURAL DISTRICT.

Medical Officer of Health—CECIL STEPHENS, M.D.

Population, 1911—5,215.

Population (estimated 1920)—5,121.

PHYSICAL FEATURES.

The villages of Doddington, Wimblington, and Manea are built on elevations, while the village of Benwick and the scattered hamlet of Welches-dam are on drained Fen soil.

I may here point out to you that the main part of the district is composed of Fen land, which is drained by artificial means. This land is rich and fertile, and owing to its fertility it provides the inhabitants with abundant occupation. From facts gleaned from reliable sources, and from my own knowledge of the various conditions of the people, the North Witchford district is in a state of prosperity. There is little poverty, and Poor-law relief is not excessive.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The total number of deaths registered for the year 1920 was 54—males 26, females 28. In 1919 this number was 59.

The death rate is 10·5 per 1,000. This is the lowest I can remember. The 1919 rate was 11·9, and the 1918 rate was 14·2. The death rate for the whole of England and Wales was 12·4.

The infant deaths (*i.e.*, those under one year of age) totalled 4—all male children; in 1919 this number was 9. There were no deaths amongst illegitimate children.

The rate here is calculated on the number of registered births, and it works out at 31·02. This is most pleasing, in that it is, in itself, extremely low, and it compares favourably with 1919, when it was 103 per 1,000 registered births, and even with 1917, when it was 50·6.

Births.—The total number of births in 1920 was 65 males and 62 females, making 127. This again compares favourably with recent years. In 1919 there were 87 births, and in 1918 there were 90 births.

The birth rate was 24·7 per 1,000 of the population. In 1919 this was 16·9 per 1,000 of the population. In 1918 it was 17·3 per 1,000 of the population. The 1920 figures come nearly up to pre-war conditions, *e.g.*, in 1913 the birth rate was 26·05 per 1,000.

The birth rate for the whole of England and Wales for 1920 was 25·4 per 1,000.

This is considerably more satisfactory, as the above comparative figures show. Although our figures do not quite come up to the average for the whole of England, they show a great improvement on the 1918 and 1919 birth rates.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water.—Doddington, Manea, and part of Wimblington are supplied with Marham water, the water from the Wisbech Water Company. There appears no reason why the remaining part of Wimblington should not derive benefit from this supply. The hamlet of Welches-dam is too small and too scattered, I fear, to be considered in any scheme for the supply of water. It derives its water from the river and from the roofs of the houses. The rain water, so caught, is stored in suitable receptacles.

The most pressing matter in my Report is the supply of good water to Benwick, and I shall leave no stone unturned until I have succeeded in carrying this matter through. I have reported it year after year, and it has been shelved.

I refer you to my last year's Report :—

“The supply of water from the Wisbech Water Company, for Benwick, requires your serious consideration, and, gentlemen, not only your consideration but your action. In spite of repeated Reports from me of the condition of affairs in this village, with regard to its water the matter has been shelved. The time has come for Benwick to be properly supplied with good water. The people are entirely dependent on soft water caught from the roofs, and from an almost stagnant river, through an inefficient filter bed. There are times in the year when there is nothing but stinking water for the people to drink. Such a condition of affairs must not be allowed to exist. The remedy is so simple. This good water is passing, less than four miles, from Benwick. There are houses, fields and farms all along the road, which would only be too pleased to pay for it on the way.”

Drainage and Sewerage.—This is in a fairly satisfactory state, and the sewage is practically all treated by filter beds.

Closet Accommodation.—There are no open middens. There are 280 pail closets and 40 water closets. There are no waste water closets.

Scavenging.—The Council's carts remove house refuse, and empty pails periodically.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

(a) Number of Inspections made during 1920 was 380.

(b) Notices—Statutory, 1.
 „ Informal, 22.

All these have been complied with.

There are no Common Lodging Houses, Knacker's Yards, or offensive trades in this district.

Food.

(a) *Milk Supply.*—This is good as regards its purity, and it is in sufficient quantity in the villages. However, in the open country, the milk is more difficult to procure. In the Fens, grass does not grow to perfection, and it is only on the more elevated parts known as high land that cows can be well grazed. This necessitates the use of substitutes—Glaxo and Condensed Milk—in the low-lying parts. Of late years goat-keeping by the cottagers has considerably increased. I strongly recommend people who have difficulty in obtaining cow's milk to keep a goat. It is most economical and beneficial.

(b) *Other Foods.*—Premises have been inspected, but no unsound food has been found. The condition of the bakehouses is good.

There is no public abattoir in the district. The slaughterhouses are all kept in fair condition. Meat is inspected frequently by the Sanitary Inspector and myself. No carcasses have been condemned for Tuberculosis. The quality of meat is improving.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of cases of Infectious Diseases were as follows :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	5
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	1
Opthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	8
Other	...	...	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	...	...	92
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	3

As there is no Isolation Hospital in the district, it is impossible to properly isolate the initial cases, and so possibly prevent an epidemic.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Staff—Consists of Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector.

Hospital Accommodation.—There is no Isolation Hospital either for Smallpox or other diseases in the district. This is a matter to which attention should be given. It must not be anticipated that the good fortune which has shone on us lately, in the matter of epidemics, will continue always, and we may find ourselves suddenly confronted by difficulty. An Isolation Hospital is needed.

HOUSING.

I here refer you to the Appendix, and would point out that, at the moment of writing, houses are being rapidly erected in the parishes of Doddington, Benwick, Manea, and Wimblington.

The following is a list of houses that are now being erected by the Council :—

Doddington	...	...	...	8
Benwick	...	...	...	8
Wimblington	...	...	...	10
Manea	...	...	...	10

Private enterprise may possibly account during 1921 for :—

Doddington	...	...	...	1
Wimblington	...	...	...	2
Manea	...	...	...	3

The Housing question is just as serious now as last year, except that building appears to be less expensive.

It will always be a serious problem, for the death rate is a declining one, and the birth rate an increasing one.

The natural increase is greater.

The methods for the prevention of disease improve year by year, and Medical Curative Science is making rapid strides.

The love of fresh air and outdoor exercises, the Child Welfare efforts, and the efforts of various other organizations, all make for life. So, Gentlemen, this life must be housed and well housed.

HOUSING CONDITIONS STATISTICS, YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1920.

1.—*General.*

(1) Estimated Population	...	...	...	...	5,121
(2) General Death Rate	...	...	...	...	10·5
(3) Death Rate from Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1·5
(4) Infantile Mortality	...	...	...	...	31·02
(5) Number of Dwelling Houses of all Classes	...	...	...	...	1,149
(6) Number of Working Class Houses	...	...	...	...	1,014
(7) Number of new Working Class Houses erected	...	...	...	...	5

2.—*Unfit Dwelling Houses.*—

I.—*Inspection.*

(1) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	55
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulation, 1910	...	...	...	...	3
(3) Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	3
(4) Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	21

II.—*Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.*

Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority of their officers	10
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III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing Town Planning, &c., Acts, 1919.

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	2
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit—(a) by owners	1
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	0

THORNEY RURAL DISTRICT.

Medical Officer of Health—HAROLD CLAPHAM, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

1. *Physical Features and General Character of the District.*—The District is situated in the Fens, and is very low-lying and flat. The village of Thorney is built on what was originally a small island of about 150 acres, the surrounding country being between 10 and 20 feet lower in level.

The area of the district is 18,957 acres (Thorney 17,842, and Stanground North 1,117), and of this acreage about 40 consist of water in drains or dykes.

The soil consists of a black vegetable loam, gradually shrinking in depth through cultivation and drainage, with a clay subsoil.

In places there are areas of silty clay, and towards the western boundary the soil becomes more gravelly, but generally speaking the land in the district is fertile and valuable. Some parts are liable to be flooded in times of heavy rainfall, but the system of drainage adopted and carefully maintained frequently averts a flood when neighbouring districts are partially inundated.

The district is both watered and drained artificially; the control of these matters being vested in a Committee, elected under powers conferred by the Thorney Drainage Act, 1911. The Commissioners, by virtue of this Act, have the powers of a Local Authority in matters appertaining to Water Supply and Sewage Disposal; they also act as the Committee responsible for the drainage of the Third District of the North Level Commission's area.

2. *Social Conditions of the District.*—Agriculture is the only industry, consequently farm labourers with their wives and families form the bulk of the population, the remainder consisting of farmers

small holders, and the usual tradesmen, &c., necessary for parish life and work. Corn and roots, chiefly potatoes, are the principal crops, and much land previously laid down in grass was cultivated by the farmers when they acquired their own holdings at the time the Duke of Bedford sold his estate (1910). More grass was ploughed up during the war.

Owing to a comparative shortage of houses there is ample work for all, so that unemployment is unknown. The average wage of a working man is 45s. to 50s. per week.

At special seasons extra labour is needed, and this need is met by the employment of "gangs" from neighbouring villages, mostly women, who drive to and from their work in trolleys.

The employment of women on the land is at times a necessity, and was urgently called for during war conditions, but the custom entails much neglect of the homes and of the children of the women so working. These ill effects are more obvious in the houses of adjoining parishes than in your own district, where the system is not as yet so generally adopted.

3. *Water Supply.*—The chief source of supply is from the River Nene, the water being conducted along an artificial cut to the village, called the Thorney River. From the intake, near the "Dog-in-a-Doublet" Inn, to the village, is a distance of $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The water required for the Urban area is filtered through gravel, charcoal, and sand, in two separately working open filter beds, collected in a suitable well and pumped into a tank in a high tower, from whence it is distributed to the various houses and premises. Outside the village the inhabitants use soft water collected from the roofs of houses or buildings and stored in tanks, and failing this source of supply they fetch water from the nearest drain. Some farmers periodically send a water-cart to the village and obtain a supply of filtered water.

No river running through the Fens, where there is at times a fall of less than a foot per mile, can be considered a satisfactory source of supply. Boring has been tried on sundry occasions in gravelly spots, but though water can be found it is usually brackish and inadequate in quantity.

A source of contamination exists in the effluent pumped into the River Nene from the Peterborough Corporation Sewage Farm. The conditions present to-day are very different from those under which these pumping powers were granted, and owing to the enlarged area from which the town of Peterborough takes sewage, a complete revision of their powers is desirable. A recent analysis of the water supplied to the village shews the total solids to be 10.00, combined chlorine 3.10, albumenoid nitrogen 0.0236, and oxygen absorbed (in four hours at 27°C) 0.244. (All these figures represent parts per 100,000).

4. *Drainage and Sewerage.*—The district is well drained for a low-lying area; most of the fields are separated by dykes (*i.e.*, water-courses 6 to 8 feet broad and 3 to 6 feet in depth). The dykes empty into larger drains, which are 10 to 14 feet broad; these again discharging into larger main drains, which ultimately communicate with the River Nene at a place called Tydd Gote, thence flowing into the Wash.

Some of the houses are supplied with water closets. In the village these empty into sewers; in the Fen the collecting chambers are emptied by pumps on to adjoining land.

The village sewers collect the material into a large well, whence it is pumped into a tank in the tower, and later distributed on the sewage fields reserved for the purpose. The discharge pipes are frequently moved so that no part of the fields shall become sewage-sick.

The rest of the houses are supplied with earth closets. A cart is sent round the village twice weekly, and pails are emptied. In the Fen each householder is responsible for emptying the pail on the garden, &c.

5. *Scavenging.*—Refuse bins (moveable) are emptied regularly into a suitable cart, and after the coarser refuse has been burnt the remainder is shot into disused gravel pits or ponds.

6. *Sanitary Inspection of the District.*—Regular systematic inspection of the houses has been impracticable recently, but any casual instances of carelessness on the part of householders or complaints raised by them has received the attention of the Inspector.

Except for seven houses, all the cottages in your district are substantially built and in good repair, and probably in no other district in England can be seen such good farmhouses and cottages.

7. *Premises and Occupations* which can be controlled by Bye-laws.—There are no Bye-laws in force, but the Council would be well advised to insist on seeing all plans for buildings, &c., prior to work being commenced.

There are no common lodging houses, canal boats, knackers' yards, offensive trades, nor any underground sleeping rooms.

Owing to the shortage of labour for modern agricultural needs it is becoming the custom in the district for farmers to allow casual labourers to occupy premises not built as dwelling houses, *e.g.*, barns, railway carriages, &c.

Formerly this plan was only adopted to accommodate extra labour in harvest time, but it is becoming a regular custom throughout the year, and is undesirable from a public health point of view. As the

sanitary accommodation is primitive or non-existent, "bedding" is difficult to disinfect, and should serious epidemic disease occur it is still more difficult to trace contacts.

8. *Schools*.—There are three schools in the village for boys, girls, and infants. Water is supplied from the Public source, and their drains and water closets are connected with the village sewers.

There are also two other schools in the Fen, one at Wrydecroft and one at Knarr Fen. Both are spacious and well lighted, warmed in winter and cleaned by caretakers living conveniently near. Earth closets are in use, and soft water from tanks is the only supply.

9. *Food Supplies*.—The district is one in which dairying is not followed. A few cowkeepers supply milk, and the farmers usually keep a cow for the convenience of their workpeople.

No unsound meat or other article of food has been detected exposed for sale.

The Bakehouses and Slaughter-shop are properly cleansed and looked after.

10. *Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases*.—During the year the number of cases of infectious diseases notified was as follows:—Scarlet Fever 4, Diphtheria 2, Measles 4, Tuberculosis 1, Malaria 1.

In doubtful cases, *e.g.*, Diphtheria, swabs are taken. Antitoxin is regularly used and stocked by the Medical Officer of Health as ordered by the Local Government Board.

The School Authorities frequently report and ask advice as to suspicious cases of illness among the school children.

11. *Smallpox*.—No cases have occurred. 18 infants were vaccinated by the Public Vaccinator. The increasing number of exemptions obtained is to be deprecated. No cases of Anthrax or Rabies.

12. *Maternity and Child Welfare*.—No licensed midwife is resident and practising in your area.

Expectant mothers almost invariably obtain the services of a medical man and engage a nurse or neighbour to attend to them during their lying-in. No cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum or Puerperal Fever were notified.

13. *Sanitary Administration*.—The staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health and Inspector of Nuisances.

14.—*Hospital Accommodation*.—The Peterborough Infirmary is the nearest General Hospital, containing about 60 beds.

By an arrangement with the Peterborough Corporation your Council has the right to use beds in their Isolation Hospital for Smallpox.

No Isolation Hospital is available for ordinary cases of Infectious Diseases.

Infected rooms are disinfected by the Inspector at the end of any infectious illness.

15. *Housing*.—The houses in the district are well built, commodious, well lighted and ventilated, and suitably provided with offices. They are constructed in blocks of six or eight or in pairs, and most of them contain two living rooms and three bedrooms.

Outhouses, such as wash-house, coal-house, and privy, are well built, generally separated from the dwelling house by a yard—paved, asphalted, or gravelled.

Your Council is erecting 12 new houses.

16. *Vital Statistics*.—Population, 2,040.

63 births registered—34 boys, 29 girls (2 girls illegitimate), a rate of 30·88 per 1,000.

Deaths registered—6 males, 6 females (5 deaths of infants under 2 years).

WHITTLESEY RURAL DISTRICT.

Medical Officer of Health—JOHN J. WADDELOW, F.R.C.S.

The estimated population for the district is 3,118.

The physical characters of the district are a flat district with a mixture of fen land and high land, the former being the far greater in population; extending over an area of 25,075 acres, being one of the largest districts in England.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births—57 males, 55 females, 2 of which were illegitimate.

Deaths—19 males, 19 females; under 1 year, 4 males, 5 females.

Birth rate—35·9 per 1,000.

Death rate—11·9 per 1,000.

Deaths under 1 year—80·3 per 1,000 births.

Causes of Death.—Whooping Cough, 1 male; Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 1 male, 2 females; other Tubercular Diseases, 1 male; Cancer, Malignant Diseases, 2 males, 2 females; Organic Hear

Disease, 1 male, 3 females; Bronchitis, 1 female; Pneumonia, 2 males, 1 female; other Respiratory Diseases, 1 male; Diarrhœa (under 2 years), 1 male, 2 females; Parturition, not Puerperal Fever, 1 female; Congenital Debility, 1 male, 2 females; Violence, not Suicide, 2 males; Suicide, 1 male; other Defined Diseases, 5 males, 5 females.

Occupations.—Agricultural work, in which a large number of females are employed, and brickyard labour, which is entirely male, neither of which seems to have any deleterious effect on health; but the agricultural work in the fresh air, in spite of the exposure to rough weather, seems beneficial, and anæmia among the workers is unknown.

Poor Relief is not excessive. This is probably considerably influenced by the Old Age Pensions.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water.—The water supply is of the natural primitive order, from surface wells and rivers; soft water is stored where possible in galvanised tanks. By possible, I mean that new dwellings are so provided, and also where a known defect exists these are provided by order.

Drainage and Sewerage.—The former, with the exception of a surface drain in Coates and surface drains connected with new buildings, are all that exist. Sewerage is non-existent.

Closet Accommodation.—This is supplied mainly by privy vaults. In the newer dwellings by boxes and pails, which are emptied periodically on the land, and in a few better class houses W.C.'s.

Scavenging does not exist.

Sanitary Inspections are carried out by myself and the Inspector of Nuisances, and enforced either by verbal or written orders, and at the present time no unabated nuisances exist.

Schools.—The general sanitary condition is good, and the same applies to water as elsewhere, there being no waterworks in the district or water laid on from other districts. The prevention of Infectious Disease by closing the Schools is in the hands of the County Medical Officer.

Food.

Milk.—The milk supply is by private individuals and private dairies, and is often very difficult to obtain in cases of sickness. Those who have milk prefer to give it to calves than allow sick persons the benefit of it. Milk and Cream Regulations, 1912—17, do not apply to the district, not being an authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

Food.—No unsound food has been discovered, and consequently none impounded. No carcases have been condemned. There is no public abattoir, but the slaughter-houses are in a clean and satisfactory condition. Bakehouses are satisfactory, and no cases of food poisoning have come under notice. The question of food adulteration is dealt with by the Inspector of Police, and there have been no prosecutions.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—PREVENTION AND CONTROL.

During the year there has not been any serious number of Notifiable Infectious Diseases, and no serious epidemic of Influenza.

Of the Notifiable Infectious Diseases there have been 23 cases—Scarlet Fever 3, Enteric Fever 1, Diphtheria 3, Erysipelas 1. Tuberculosis—Pulmonary 3, other 1. Pneumonia 10. Broncho-Pneumonia 1.

Owing to the ease with which exemptions are obtained, the number of vaccinations is small. When performed it is done by private Practitioners and Public Vaccinators.

Sanitary Administration is carried out by myself and one Inspector of Nuisances. There is no Hospital accommodation except at the Workhouse, and no Hospital for Infectious Diseases. There are no local Acts in force. Any chemical analysis of water when required is done by myself. Bacteriological examination for Tubercular Bacilli is in the hands of the Tuberculosis Officer.

Housing.—The housing accommodation is fully taxed, and a relief in the shape of new houses would be welcomed; new houses are being contemplated under the Ministry of Health scheme. Some houses are more fully inhabited than is desirable, but as there are no vacant houses it is impossible at present to deal with it. When the new houses are erected it will be possible to do something towards remedying this. Many houses are the reverse of desirable, but for reasons above stated this state of affairs must perforce continue for the present. Some new houses recently erected caused a good deal of trouble by being unsatisfactory as regards water supply and drainage, but this was eventually rectified. As there are no building bye-laws this is certain to occur, as the Rural Council do not appreciate their position and responsibility as a Local Sanitary Authority, and from making and passing bye-laws controlling the erection and drainage of new houses.

WISBECH RURAL DISTRICT.

Medical Officer of Health—C. H. GUNSON, M.B., CH. B.

The District consists of Eight Parishes, situated in the Isle of Ely, and lying towards the North, West and South of Wisbech. It has the general characteristics of the fen country geology, viz :—

A deposition of peat and silt on sand and gravel, which in turn rests on boulder clay. The configuration of the country is extremely flat, no part rising many feet above the sea level. It is essentially rural in character, the density of the population being approximately one person to every five acres. Fruit-growing is now the principal industry of the district, followed closely by potato cultivation.

House Accommodation.—There is still a great shortage of cottages throughout the district. Due to this insufficiency I have not been able to recommend to the Council the closing of Houses in such a state of repair as to be no longer fit for habitation. The Council's Building Scheme is progressing, and will when completed considerably modify the demand for houses in this area. The chief defects found during my inspections have been due to roofs out of repair, and blocked or broken gutters. These defects have been remedied upon my representation to the landlord concerned.

Sewerage and Drainage.—There is not any system of sewage disposal. The houses for the most part are drained into cesspools. There is no public scavenging, the house refuse being disposed of in the gardens of the occupiers.

Water Supply.—A large part of the district is in possession of a most excellent supply of good and wholesome water supplied by the Wisbech Water Works Company from their springs at Marham. Those who are not fortunate to have this supply depend on rain-water. This is collected and stored in water-tight underground cisterns safeguarded from contamination.

Fruit Pickers' Accommodation.—The Fruit Pickers in this district are as a rule well housed. A systematic inspection is made each year of all buildings allotted to the pickers, and instruction is given regarding light, ventilation, water supply and excrement disposal to the owners.

The Dairies, Cowsheds, Slaughter Houses, and Knackers' Yards have all been inspected and found to be in a clean and satisfactory state.

Infectious Diseases.—Seventy-eight cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year. The majority of these occurred in the Outwell, Upwell, and Christchurch Districts. Ten cases of Diphtheria were notified, a decrease in the occurrence of this disease. Two cases of Malaria contracted abroad were notified.

Vital Statistics.—The population 1911 was 9,731. The estimated population to-day is 10,682.

The Birth Rate is 27·05 per thousand and the Death Rate 10·4 per thousand.

Statistical Summary.

				County			England and Wales
				1920	1918	1919	1920
Population (estimated) ..	..	..	..	71091	65390	68366	
Birth Rate .. ..	..	..	..	22·7	16·5	17·5	25·4
Death Rate .. ..	..	..	..	12·02	16·5	13·6	12·4
Infantile Mortality ..	..	..	..	69·04	109·3	83·8	80

Isolation Hospitals.—Available Accommodation.

District	Populat'n' 1918.	Small Pox	No. of Beds	Other Infectious Diseases	No. of Beds
		Description		Description	
Chatteris U. ..	5373	Isolation Hospital.	4	.. ..	2
Ely U. ..	7764	None	..	Isolation Hospital joint Ely U. and R. Districts.	12
March U. ..	8902	Hospital in Gaul Rd. Two wards. (a) Large, 5. (b) Small, 2.	7	In the absence of Small Pox the Hospital is used for other infec- tious diseases.	
Whittlesey U. ..	4203	None	..	None	
Wisbech U. ..	9922	Hospital	14	Hospital	50
Ely R. ..	13198			See ELY.U.	
N. Witehford R.	5182	None	..	None	
Thorney R. ..	2309	House on Peter- boro' Common in conjunction with other L.As.	4	None (confering with Crowland R.D.C. and Peterboro' R.D.C.)	
Whittlesey R. ..	3555	None	..	None	
Wisbech R. ..	11009	Wisbech Urban Hospital available	..	Wisbech Urban Hospital available	

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1920.

(Provisional figures. Provisional populations estimated to the middle of 1920 have been used for the purposes of this Table. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns.)

	Birth-rate per 1,000 total population.	Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population.								Rate per 1,000 Births.		Percentage of Total Deaths				
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping-cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhea and Enteritis (under 2 years).	Total Deaths under one year.	Deaths in Public Institutions.	Certified Causes of death.	Unregist. Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.
England and Wales	25.4	12.4	0.01	0.00	0.19	0.04	0.11	0.15	0.28	0.48	8.3	80	24.3	92.2	6.6	1.2
96 Great Towns, including London (Census Populations exceeding 50,000)	26.2	12.5	0.01	0.00	0.22	0.04	0.14	0.16	0.31	0.43	10.4	85	31.3	92.2	7.1	0.7
	24.9	11.3	0.02	0.00	0.19	0.03	0.10	0.14	0.27	0.38	7.8	80	16.5	93.2	5.3	1.5
	London	26.5	12.4	0.01	0.00	0.22	0.05	0.17	0.22	0.30	0.47	9.5	75	46.8	91.2	8.6	0.2

Causes of Death in the Urban and Rural Districts, 1920.

CAUSES OF DEATH		Deaths in all Districts at Subjoined Ages										Deaths in each District at all Ages										Totals			
		Urban										Rural													
		All Ages	Under 0 year	Under 1 year	Under 2 years	Under 5 years	Under 15 years	Under 25 years	Under 45 years	65 and upwards	Charters	City	March	Whitlesey	Walsbech	City	North	Thorney	Whitlesey	Walsbech					
1.	Enteric Fever ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	
2.	Small Pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
3.	Measles ..	7	2	1	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
4.	Scarlet Fever ..	2	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
5.	Whooping Cough ..	14	8	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
6.	Diphtheria ..	5	1	1	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
7.	Influenza ..	21	..	1	1	3	1	5	..	5	1	4	1	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
8.	Erysipelas ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9.	Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	53	..	..	..	4	16	22	10	1	1	5	6	1	12	6	6	1	3	6	5	9	10	11	10
10.	Tuberculous Meningitis ..	3	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
11.	Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	8	1	..	1	3	1	2	..	63	8	18	16	9	26	25	1	..	1	9	12	13	14	15	16
12.	Cancer, malignant disease ..	116	..	1	..	1	..	4	47	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
13.	Rheumatic Fever ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
14.	Menngitis ..	4	..	..	1	1	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
15.	Organic Heart Disease ..	78	..	..	..	1	1	4	17	55	5	8	6	4	14	11	6	2	4	15	16	17	18	19	20
16.	Bronchitis ..	53	8	..	..	2	..	1	4	38	3	4	13	3	10	11	2	1	5	16	17	18	19	20	21
17.	Pneumonia ..	60	15	2	3	3	..	7	11	9	2	10	7	1	9	7	1	1	3	13	14	15	16	17	18
18.	Other Diseases of respiratory organs ..	15	..	..	..	..	..	9	6	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
19.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis ..	19	13	..	1	1	..	2	..	2	2	..	1	1	..	3	..	..	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
20.	Appendicitis and Typhlitis ..	4	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
21.	Cirrhosis of Liver ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
21a.	Alcoholism ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21a
22.	Nephritis and Bright's Disease ..	20	..	..	..	..	1	1	5	..	..	..	4	..	2	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
23.	Puerperal Fever ..	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
24.	Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy ..	7	..	..	..	..	1	6	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	1	1	..	1	1	1	1	1	1	24
25.	Congenital Debility and Malformation ..	55	55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	1	9	2	11	12	1	3	3	9	9	9	9	9	9
26.	Violent Deaths ..	21	1	1	3	3	2	3	4	4	1	3	2	2	3	3	2	..	2	3	3	3	3	3	3
27.	Suicide ..	8	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	1	..	1	1	1	..	1	..	..	1	1	1	1	1	1	27
28.	Other Defined Diseases..	287	17	4	1	3	10	19	39	188	19	41	23	24	46	58	25	6	10	32	32	32	32	32	32
29.	Diseases ill-defined or unknown ..	10	1	..	..	..	1	2	..	6	3	..	..	..	1	5	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	1	1
All Cases ..		877	124	17	15	31	39	87	155	403	64	104	95	64	151	169	51	14	38	112	112	112	112	112	112

